

PORTRAITS OF AMERICANS

We've talked a lot about how far we've come in two hundred years: now, let's stop for a moment to consider who we are.

Today, there are over 200 million citizens of this country living on a continent that was virtually empty in 1776, descendants of people who immigrated to the United States from all over the world, as well as the original inhabitants. Here we show the faces of a hundred of them, from children to a centenarian, from farm workers to an astronaut. They can be found in small towns and in large cities — on farms in Wisconsin and in steel mills in Chicago. In their spare time, they race motorcycles, play musical instruments, attend family reunions, or judge cattle at state fairs.

They live, work, study, vote, play, and in general interact in an infinite variety of ways. But within this diversity they are united by their history, their beliefs, their traditions — and by the physical fact of a great continent. This common experience has left its mark on their faces, and there is something specially American about them.

Is it an innate sense of optimism which regards the promise of an unlimited future almost as a birthright? Is it an openness that springs naturally from the freedom that we take for granted? Or is it a shared feeling of working for similar goals — goals that were so eloquently set forth in the Declaration of Independence?

Our future, no less than our past, is in these faces.



A



B



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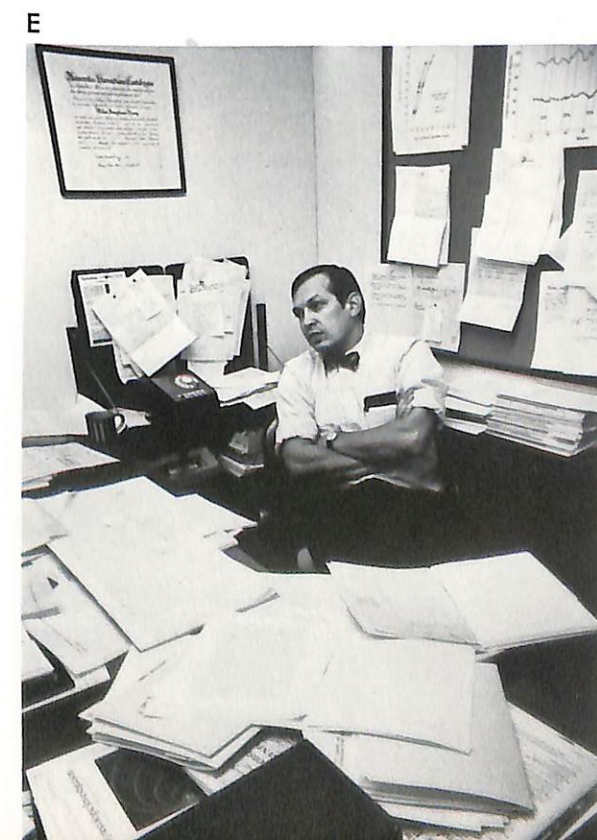
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